

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/10 :  
CIA-RDP85T00875R001100130

De

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/10 :  
CIA-RDP85T00875R001100130

SECRET

65

25X1

OCI No. 0672/72

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
13 January 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Ghana Situation Report  
(As of 1100 EST)

1. The situation in Accra is fluid with the outcome of this morning's attempted military coup still uncertain. Although the coup group controls the radio station, airport, prime minister's residence, and the main army camp in Accra, the National Security Council, composed of the key political and security figures in the Busia regime, is reportedly still functioning.

25X1

2. At last report, army and police headquarters in Accra remained under government control and the regime's defenders were in contact with the loyalist commander of the 2nd Army Brigade in Kumasi (140 miles upcountry). The status of infantry battalions in nearby Tema and Takoradi remains unclear, but their commanders and also the commanders of the battalions subordinate to the 2nd Brigade have all been appointed regional commissioners by Lieutenant Colonel Acheampong, the coup leader. This suggests the collusion of these key officers in the coup attempt.

3. US Embassy officials, circulating freely in Accra amid little evidence of military activity, report that a hasty sampling of public opinion reflected considerable support for the coup attempt, based largely on the rise in the cost of living that followed sharp devaluation of Ghana's currency

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

at the end of December. A government minister asserts, however, that support for the coup is limited to market women and others in Accra already disgruntled with the government for tribal reasons.

4. The coup group's radio broadcasts have emphasized economic grievances in an apparent attempt to build public support. Loyal officials in Kumasi have countered with broadcasts announcing that the attempt has been thwarted.

5. The basic motivation for the coup attempt may lie in the personal bitterness of Acheampong who has long been disgruntled over his career progress. Last fall he was reported to be bitter over the appointment of Brigadier Twum Barimah, his junior in service, to Army Commander. Last summer Acheampong had openly criticized the government for military budget reductions which cut deeply into the pay and perquisites of army officers. Acheampong reportedly is extremely popular among younger officers and enlisted men.

6. Acheampong was born in Kumasi in 1931 and is a member of the Ashanti tribe, which is prominent, if not dominant, in the Busia regime. He is considered strongly pro-West, especially pro-US, and spent 1968-69 at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

7. Neither Acheampong nor any of the other individuals thus far identified with the coup group appears to have any connection with former dictator Kwame Nkrumah or his followers. Nkrumah himself is extremely ill and probably near death in a cancer clinic in Bucharest. Some of the coup group's radio broadcasts have criticized the Busia regime for its alleged similarities to the Nkrumah government.

25X1

SECRET